

REMARKS

The present invention is an electronic device. An electronic device according to an embodiment of the invention includes a housing 2 and 3 and a cover 4 connected by a hinge 5 comprising a flexible member about which the cover may pivot with respect to the housing between an open position, as illustrated in Fig. 4A, and a closed position, as illustrated in Fig. 4C. The housing and cover also being connected by at least one flexible resilient biasing strip 31 and 33 configured to bias the cover into the open position in which the cover extends away from the housing as illustrated in Fig. 4A.

The present invention provides an improvement to flip phones regarding the hinge connecting the cover to the phone being a weak point which is susceptible to breakage and being a complicated construction which is difficult to assemble and manufacture. The present invention provides an antithetic solution to the aforementioned problems. See page 1, lines 11-33, of the specification.

Claims 1, 2 and 8-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Horiuchi. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the following reasons.

Horiuchi discloses a housing case for a mobile telephone set that includes a case ground fabric for covering the outer side face of a mobile telephone set being formed and a hinge A3 which is not flexible for pivoting the housing 3 and 4 between an open and closed position. See the translation thereof.

Regarding claim 1, Applicant submits that Horiuchi does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of claim 1 of, inter alia, an electronic device including a housing

and a cover connected by a hinge comprising a flexible member about which the cover may pivot with respect to the housing between an open and closed position and the housing and the cover also being connected by at least one biasing flexible resilient strap configured to bias the cover into the open position in which the cover extends away from the housing. The element 5 of Horiuchi is not a flexible hinge. A person of ordinary skill in the art also understands that hinge A3 is not the claimed flexible hinge.

Regarding claims 2 and 8-10, it is submitted that these claims are dependent on independent claim 1 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted previously regarding this independent claim. For example, it is submitted that Horiuchi does not disclose or suggest a catch for locking the cover in the closed position in which it overlies a portion of the housing, or where the flexible member is made of rubber.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Horiuchi does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of claims 1, 2 and 8-10 of the present application. Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

Claims 3-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Horiuchi. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and submits that these claims are dependent on independent claim 1 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted previously regarding this independent claim. Applicant submits that Horiuchi does not disclose or suggest two flexible resilient straps, each strap having one end attached to the outside of the cover and another end attached to the outside of the housing, each

strap having an embossed region, or each strap being made of metal in combination with a flexible hinge.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Horiuchi does not disclose, suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of claims 3-7 of the present application. Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

Newly submitted claims 11-28 cover further aspects of the present invention which are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Horiuchi. Claims 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, and 27 recite that the hinge comprises a strip of rubber or polymer material which is supported by page 3, lines 28-31, of the specification and claims 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26 and 28 recite that the at least one strap does not change in length when the cover is opened which is supported by page 2, lines 14-16, of the specification, which limitations are not suggested by Horiuchi.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1-28 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

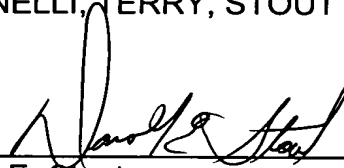
To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the

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deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135
(referencing attorney docket no. 1344.41002TRN).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald E. Stout', is written over a horizontal line.

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